

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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SUBJECT: AID COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN

REF: A. ATHENS 10020; B. STATE 178965; C. ATHENS 7233

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE ADVANCE TEXTS OF REMARKS TO BE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AND MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS AT THE SEP 22 SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE AID COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN SCHEDULED FOR 1715 LOCAL TIME. AS REPORTED IN REF A, THE AMBASSADORS DRAFT REMARKS WERE SHORTENED TO COMPLY WITH GREEK TELEVISION TIME REQUIREMENTS. MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS PLANNED REMARKS INCORPORATE SEVERAL OF THE POINTS INCLUDED IN THE AMBASSADORS EARLIER DRAFT. THE SIGNING CEREMONY AND EXCHANGE OF REMARKS IS SLATED TO BE COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA AND INCLUDED ON THE EVENING GREEK TELEVISION NEWS.

2. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS:

BEGIN QUOTE

MR. MINISTER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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THIS \$65 MILLION AID LOAN WE SIGN TODAY IS PART OF THE

VERY SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF APPROXIMATELY
\$400 MILLION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS EXTENDED TO GREECE
OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

AND ADDITIONAL LARGE SCALE ASSISTANCE IS IN PROSPECT.

THIS PROGRAM IS VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED BECAUSE THE
UNITED STATES DOES NOT NORMALLY EXTEND SUCH ASSISTANCE TO
NATIONS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED GREECE'S RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

MR MINISTER, AS YOU KNOW, MY COUNTRY WELCOMED THE
RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE. THUS, THE POLICIES
OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN SHAPED TO GIVE SUBSTANCE
TO OUR BELIEF THAT GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE MOST
WHEN WE SHARE FREE INSTITUTIONS:

--OUR TWO PEOPLES ARE UNITED BY DEEP TIES OF HERITAGE
AND FAMILY;

--IN THE POST-WAR ERA GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES
SHARED IN GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AS THE WESTERN WORLD RECOVERED
FROM THE DEVASTATION OF WAR;

--TODAY THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE HAVE IN COMMON THE
UNIQUE, HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE WHICH FREEDOM PROVIDES TO
PEOPLES PRIVILEGED TO POSSESS IT;

--AND FINALLY, WE ARE CONFRONTED BY COMMON PROBLEMS
AND CHALLENGES AS THE PEOPLES OF THE WEST SEEK TO ASSURE
THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL ENJOY THE SAME FREEDOMS THAT
WE POSSESS.

IN OUR ECONOMIC PROGRAMS WE HAVE ASSISTED
GREECE THROUGH LARGE SCALE MILITARY LOANS AND GRANTS, CREDITS
AND INSURANCE FROM THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK, FINANCING FROM
THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION, STRONG SUPPORT FOR
GREECE AT MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD
BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, AND NOW THROUGH
THIS NEW \$65 MILLION LOAN.
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MAY I ALSO SAY, MR MINISTER, HOW PLEASED WE WERE TO
NOTE THE RECENT OPENING IN BRUSSELS OF FORMAL
NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO GREECE'S FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THIS FURTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP
IN GREECE'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, WHICH WILL
FORGE LASTING AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL LINKS WITHIN A

COMMUNITY OF NATIONS WHOSE IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS WE ALL
SHARE.

THUS, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I AM ESPECIALLY
PLEASED AND HONORED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT
SIGNING CEREMONY TODAY.

END QUOTE.

3. REMARKS IN REPLY BY COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

MR. AMBASSADOR:

THE LOAN OF 65 MILLION DOLLARS THAT WE ARE SIGNING
TODAY IS A SMALL PART OF THE AMERICAN AID GRANTED, AS
YOU HAVE JUST SAID, TO GREECE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

ITS DURATION IS FOR 25 YEARS, INCLUDING A PERIOD OF
GRACE OF FOUR AND A HALF YEARS.

THE USE OF THIS LOAN IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY POLITICAL
PRECONDITIONS AND CONSTITUTES A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION AIMED
AT STRENGTHENING THE GREEK ECONOMY.

FINALLY, IT IS TRUE THAT SUCH LONG-TERM LOANS WITH
SUCH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS ARE NOT GRANTED BY AID TO
COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE REACHED THE LEVEL OF GREECE'S
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUT ONLY IN VERY SPECIFIC AND EXCEP-
TIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU REFERRED, MR. AMBASSADOR, TO THE TIES WHICH
UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS. I WILL REFER TO THEM AS WELL.
DURING THE LAST TWO WORLD CONFRONTATIONS, WHEN EVEN THE
GREATEST POWERS OF THE WORLD NEEDED ALLIES, WE FOUND OUR-
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SELVES SIDE-BY-SIDE DEFENDING HUMAN DIGNITY AND OUR
COMMON DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. BUT EVEN TODAY, TWO
HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPEN-
DENCE AND 25 HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE BIRTH OF DEMOCRACY
IN ATHENS, OUR TWO NATIONS FEEL THE NEED TO SECURE
THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR POLITICAL LIBERTIES AND
TO TRANSMIT INTACT THESE VALUES TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WE GREEKS DO NOT FORGET AND WE DO NOT HESITATE TO
RECOGNIZE PUBLICLY THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS
CONTRIBUTED TO A LARGE EXTENT TO THE EFFORTS OF
RECONSTRUCTING AND, IN THE SECOND PHASE, OF DEVELOPING
EUROPE AND ESPECIALLY GREECE AFTER THE DEVASTATION CAUSED
BY THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAS TAUGHT
THE GREEK NATION THAT FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMIC
FOREIGN POLICY IN PARTICULAR IS NOT DICTATED ONLY BY MORAL
IMPERATIVES BUT ALSO BY THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
INTERESTES OF EACH COUNTRY. ALL THE SAME, THERE ARE TWO
KINDS OF SUCH INTERESTS - SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM.
BOTH COUNTRIES STAND TO SATISFY THEIR IMMEDIATE AND SHORT-
TERM INTERESTS. THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND,
BY SUPPORTING EUROPE AND GREECE CERTAINLY DID NOT ACT
OUT OF PURE CHARITY BUT THEY DID HAVE THE COURAGE AND WERE
READY TO GIVE WHATEVER WAS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN US. OUT
OF THIS REALISTIC APPROACH WE MAY DEDUCE THAT THE LONG-TERM
INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE COINCIDE.
IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO DRAW
FROM THE ABOVE BASIC OBSERVATION IN EACH PARTICULAR CASE
THE PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

SPECIAL SENTIMENTAL FAMILY TIES, AS YOU VERY
APPROPRIATELY REFERRED TO THEM, MR AMBASSADOR, EXIST
BETWEEN US. A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OF
GREEK DESCENT ARE IN THE UNITED STATES SUCCESSFULLY
ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND
EVEN IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. AND THEY DO COMBINE,
ACCORDING TO A NOBLE, DEMOCRATIC AND CHARACTERISTICALLY
AMERICAN TRADITION, LOYALTY AND DEVOTION TO THE UNITED
STATES WITH THEIR LOVE FOR THE LAND OF THEIR ANCESTORS.

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FOR ALL THESE REASONS, MR. AMBASSADOR, I CONSIDER
MYSELF ESPECIALLY HAPPY IN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT WITH
YOU.
END QUOTE.

4. GREEK AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF PRECEDING REMARKS WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS AT TIME OF SIGNING.
KUBISCH

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